rural household including single women can avail benefit of 100 days guaranteed employment and women get priority under NREGA, Under Indira Gandhi National Social Assistance Programme all persons who are 65 years or higher and belong to BPL category are eligible to get pension of Rs. 200/- per month from the Government of India. The Scheme was expanded in February, 2009 and widows in the age group of 40-64 are also eligible for pension under the Indira Gandhi National Widow Pension Scheme. Issuance of the ration card is the responsibility of State Governments. The Ministry runs the Support for Training and Employment Programme (STEP) for skill upgradation and generation of livelihood options for assetless and marginalized women. Besides there two other schemes of the Ministry *i.e.* Swadhar and Short Stay Homes, which are intended to provide emergency outreach services including shelter, medical treatment, counseling, food, clothing etc. to women in difficult circumstances who do not have societal/family support or independent means of income.

Legislation on infant and young child feeding

1209. DR. E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is contemplating to bring a legislation on the lines of India's commitment to the global strategy for infant and young child feeding adopted by the World Health Assembly resolution 54.2 in May, 2002; and

(b) if so, the steps taken to implement programmes on infant and young child feeding to be consistent with accepted principles for avoiding conflict of interest?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KRISHNA TIRATH): (a) To promote infant and young child feeding and to fulfill the Commitment to the World Health Assembly Resolution 54.2, India has already enacted the Infact Milk substitutes, Feeding Bottles and Infact Foods (Regulation of Production, Supply and Distribution) Act 1992 (41 of 1992) which was amended in 2003. This Act is also known as the IMS Act.

This act provides the regulation of production, supply and distribution of infant milk substitutes, feeding bottles and infant foods to protect and promote breastfeeding.

(b) The steps taken to implement the programmes on infant and young child feeding are as under:—

1. The National Guidelines on Infant and Young Child Feeding have been developed and disseminated all over the country.

2. Food and Nutrition Board in the Ministry is engaged in dissemination of appropriate infant and young child feeding practices by conducting-

   (i) Training programmes for the CDPOs under ICDS who act as the master trainers to disseminate the messages on infant and young child feeding practices.

(ii) Orientation training programmes for field functionaries of ICDS and health functionaries on IYCF guidelines.

(iii) Broadcast of audio spots on nutrition including nutrition for the infants and the young children under the programme "Poshan Aur Swasthay" through popular FM stations of All India Radio.

(iv) Celebration of World Breastfeeding Week in August and National Nutrition Week in September each year under which exhibitions on nutrition including infant and young child feeding guidelines is organized for the general public. This year two such exhibitions were organized at Bawana and Narala in Delhi.

(v) Video spots on infant and young child feeding and nutrition for the girl child starting with a message on breastfeeding are being telecast on Doordarshan and other popular TV channels.

(vi) Important messages on breastfeeding are given through press advertisement in leading newspaper all over the country in English, Hindi as well as in regional languages as also through multilingual posters and pamphlets etc.

(vii) Video spots on IYCF have been prepared for wider dissemination.

Permissible amount for Anganwadis in Urban areas

1210. SHRI P. RAJEEVE: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the maximum permissible amount given as rent for Anganwadis located in urban areas under the ICDS;

(b) the year in which the rent rates were revised; and

(c) whether there is any proposal for increasing the rent rates taking into consideration the high rental rates in urban areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KRISHNA TIRATH): (a) Under the ICDS Scheme, an amount of Rs. 750/- per Anganwadi Centre per month is prescribed for the rent of Anganwadi Centres located in urban areas.

(b) Rent rates for the Anganwadi Centres under the Scheme were revised in the year 2007 and are effective from 1.2.2007.

(c) Presently, no proposal for increasing the rent is under consideration.

Women trafficking

†1211. SHRI PRABHAT JHA: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.